



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ Early Informal Service
8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am in
the sanctuary and
 - ◆ Via Facebook
- ◆ Sunday School to be
determined

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org
www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

9:00 am to 2:30 pm M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Youth Ministries Email:

youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and friends,

I think ministers must be on the mailing list of every conceivable organization and charity in the United States of America. Much of the mail I receive (about 50%) is what is commonly called "junk mail." This week as I was thumbing through the "junk mail," I received two pieces, one of which offered the captivating guarantee of providing me all the insights I would need to make 2021 "the best year ever. Take advantage of the New Year." The other promised to make a new "me," or "a new you in the New Year." I put together these words from these two pieces of junk mail to form this phrase "A new You in a New Year."



Well, I will not turn to goofy advertisements but to God's word for insights and instructions on how each of us can be "a new you in a New Year." I believe the Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Philippi in (3: 1-11), gives a time-honored principle that worked in 63 A.D. and will work for us in 2021. I believe it was Edna St. Vincent Millay, who once shared, "I know that life must go on, but I forget just why." We sometimes miss the great opportunities of life because we get sidetracked. I once heard the tale of a talented bloodhound in England that started a hunt by chasing a full grown male deer. During the chase a fox crossed his path, so he began now to chase the fox. A rabbit crossed his hunting path, so he began to chase the rabbit. After chasing the rabbit for a while, a tiny field mouse crossed his path, and he chased the mouse to the corner of a farmer's barn. The bloodhound had begun the hunt chasing a prized deer for his master and wound up barking at a tiny mouse. It is a rare human being who can do three or four different things at a time, moving in different directions.

The Apostle Paul knew his number-one priority was to live his life to the honor and glory of God by preaching the Gospel. He wouldn't allow anything to cross his path that would deter him from his priority. Paul knew that his new life was a gift from God, not from the promises of humanity. His life was to be lived for his Lord and Savior. Nothing would deter him from that priority! Did you know that you will be a new person on January 1, 2021, compared to who you were on January 1, 2020, because almost 98% of the atoms found in your body on January 1, 2021, were not present one year ago! The Bible also talks about our God "who can make ALL things new." Paul declares in other portions

(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)



of his writing that "If any person is in Christ Jesus, they are a new creation." Yes, the Bible talks a great deal about us being a new people, but doesn't have anything to do with atoms in our physical bodies. We are new people when we have the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ living inside us. This is the priority that the Apostle Paul urged the Christians at Philippi to adopt for the living out of their faith. It was Dr. Stanley Menking, who said that the necessity of time management-not as a legalist requirement, but as a resource for ministry to prevent the minor things from crowding out the "MAJORS."

Now, Paul was a great time manager because he knew we can't do three or four things at once or move in two or three different directions. This is why Apostle Paul writes, "This one thing I do." This is why Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to seek his kingdom first, and then the rest of our lives and priorities will fall into order.

My dear friends please do not lose your priority in life! You are living for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Spend your time in 2021 doing one thing best for Christ and this Church and then let all the other items fall into place. Christ's spirit lives best in his disciples who say, "This I will do," rather than, "Something ought to be done around this place." Pick a priority and then perform it to the best of your ability. May the spirit of Christ guide you help establish your priority today for a New You in a New Year."

I wish you and yours a blessed and a healthy New Year.

God's peace is with you!

Pastor Sundar

LECTIONARY AND WORSHIP NOTES FOR JANUARY

- January 3 **Epiphany of the Lord Sunday** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 *Rev. Sundar Samuel preaching*
- January 10 **Baptism of the Lord** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11 *Carol Walkley preaching*
- January 17 **Human Relations Day—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51 *George Herrick preaching*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—January 18; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. See page 4 for more on Human Relations Day and page 5 for more on The Week of Prayer
- January 24 **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany & Ecumenical Sunday** Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Rev. Sundar Samuel preaching
- January 31 **4th Sunday after the Epiphany** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
Rev. Sundar Samuel preaching



THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. January, 2021, Volume 23, Issue 1. G. Herrick, **Editor (on sabbatical)**; S. Samuel, G. Welkley, **Editing Team**; J. Van Ornam, **Proofreader**; K. Van Buren, (Interim Editor) B. Van Ornam, **Production Team**; R. Reineke, **Photographer**;
The Church Staff: Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Amanda Trainor, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; Amber Biechman, **Youth Leader**; Jacqueline Krahforst, **Organist**; Herb Lamb, **Choir Director**; Cynthia Reineke, **Coordinator of EmBELLishments & Children's Music Program**; Gail Welkley, **Administrative Assistant**; Christopher Chartrand, **Custodian**; Beth Duncan, **Lay Leader**; Scott Bogart, **Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany**; Mozart M. K. Adevu, **Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, based in Accra, Ghana, West Africa.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Families,

I hope everyone is well and had a tremendous Christmas! If you did not get a chance to attend the Living Nativity on Christmas Eve I hope you were able to enjoy the pictures on Facebook. A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who have made the Living Nativity possible.



My official due date is this month (January 25) and will be taking a leave of absence for six weeks once the baby is here! The church will continue to support Friday Night Alive meetings in my absence.

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, feedback or just need someone to pray with as we continue to tread through the Pandemic.

Happy New Year and much love and peace to all!

Blessings,
Amanda Trainor,
egchristianedfumc@gmail.com

Amanda's message was written prior the Christmas Eve, prior to the cancellation of the Live Nativity due to poor weather conditions and the illness of some of the participants.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP—UPDATE

With so much unknown, we feel like meeting virtually is still the best option.

We will continue to do Friday Night Alive Via ZOOM. Youth Group will get a Mission Project after. There will be more details via email on Mission Projects.

The two dates for **Friday Night Alive** are: **January 8** at 6:30 p.m. and **January 22** at 6:30 p.m.



Calling All Older Youth, 7th graders plus. I would like to host a **virtual** You Tube Discussion Group. I will email everyone the link to **Butterfly Circus** we will then meet to discuss the movie and play a game virtual. This will be held on **Sunday, January 31** at 3:00 pm .

I hope to see everyone there. Please stay safe!

God Bless,
Amber Telford

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW is wishing everyone to be safe and healthy. We pray that the new vaccine works and we can meet again. We decided as a group that for January and February we will not physically meet. January is when we go over our budget. It was decided that Kathy Van Buren, our treasurer, will email the budget to members for review. If you would like to review it please contact her a copy of the budget at jvanbur1@nycap.rr.com



If you have any questions for the UMW contact Patty Chartrand at pjdc560@gmail.com

The 2021 flower chart is on the table in the foyer. Call or email the church office to sign up. There is a \$20 charge for the cost of the flowers and checks are to be made out to the "United Methodist Women"

The poinsettias will be ready for pick up in the sanctuary after Christmas Eve until January 9. Then they will be moved to the entrance by the offices for pick up.

MISSIONS

Joseph's House and Shelter Outreach Van



When the Outreach Van makes its rounds in and around Troy, the homeless people know that people care. Thank you to the volunteers who provided lunches on Mondays through November and December. If you can sign up for a Monday to prepare and deliver 17 sandwiches to the shelter for distribution, along with vegetables or potato chips and a dessert, please contact Kevin Conley (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518.253.4907). Assistance with delivering lunches to the Joseph's House administrative offices is available, if needed, and you can be reimbursed for purchased food.

Styrofoam and Batteries

Remember to save your batteries and Styrofoam for our next recycling event on January 3. Please discard corroded batteries and Styrofoam containers used for food or drink. Please bring only Styrofoam that is clean with remove tape and staples removed.



New Year's Resolution - Be Kind to the Earth



As Christians, we believe that our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called humanity to be its caretakers (Genesis 1:26-31). Yet, plastics and micro-plastics are clogging our rivers, lakes, oceans, gutters, parks and filling our landfills. Consider some of these [actions that you can take to reduce your use of plastic](#). (click on this line for suggestions)

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. **With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day on January 17**, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

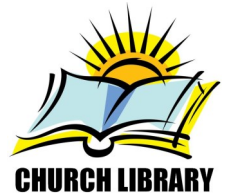
One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. (Source: [UMCgiving](#)).



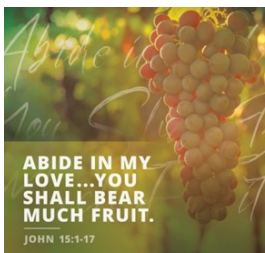
THE CHURCH LIBRARY

In this time of social distancing one can read everything in the house. The church library has a variety of titles. If you want a title or author to read please email me at pjdc560@gmail.com and I will see if it is there and arrange for you to pick it up.



THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25

"As we gather throughout our world to pray for the unity of Christians in 2021, we celebrate the theme gifted this year to the Church from the ecumenical monastic community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, "Abide in my love... you shall bear much fruit." (John 15:1-17) We are reminded by the very voice of Jesus Christ the he is the vine and we are the branches. The sap that nourishes a grapevine is a metaphor of the Holy Spirit nourishing the whole vine of the one Church, no matter what our branch. Each branch can produce abundant good fruit to nourish in turn the whole world. But Christ himself is the vine who holds us all together.



"Together then, especially after the upheavals and anguish of 2020, let us all abide in Christ's love to bear the good fruit that can make 2021 a blessing for all. Pray that they all may be one."

THOSE WE HAVE LOST IN 2020 IN THE CHURCH

United Methodists this past year mourned the passing of groundbreaking bishops, founders of Africa University, giants of the U.S. civil rights movement, and a mathematician who charted the way for astronauts. [This line introduces an article in the December 18, 2020 issue of the United Methodist News Service **UMNS Daily Digest**. Here are two of the edited stories.]

"United Methodists remember Sierra Leone Area **Bishop John K. Yambasu** for his courage, leadership and love of The United Methodist Church and Jesus Christ. He died in a car accident Aug. 16 while on the way to preach at a funeral. He was 63. Yambasu had many titles — bishop, chancellor of Africa University and president of the Africa College of Bishops. But the one he most cherished was beloved child of God. . ."



Bishop Yambasu preached in our church when he was listed in The Church BELL as "our" missionary. The complete News Service article is available at <https://www.umnews.org/en/tag/daily-digest>.

"**The Rev. Joseph Echols Lowery**, a United Methodist pastor who loved to preach and was never afraid to speak truth to power, died at his home in Atlanta on March 27. He was 98. Lowery walked with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and gave the benediction at President Barack Obama's first inauguration. Obama also presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. With King, he was among the 60 Black ministers who formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. . ."

FUMCEG SUPPORTS MOZART ADEVU

Our church supports Mozart M. K. Adevu, a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries. Mr. Adevu serves as the Africa regional coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). He is based in Accra, Ghana, West Africa.



Mr. Adevu's program focuses on the training of communities for transformation, including assessment of needs and assets, and training in such areas as integrated crop and pest management, nutrition improvement using moringa and soybeans; beekeeping that produces pure, hygienic honey; livestock- and poverty-improvement practices, and agroforestry to protect the environment and encourage the growing of trees that produce food and income.

Mozart is married and the father of two sons and a daughter. He sends our church 3-4 newsletters each year accompanied by messages of gratitude for our support, prayers for our church and requests for our prayers for his ministry. The newsletters often profile participating farmers who describe the impact that the program has had on their family's livelihoods. If you would like copies of the newsletters, please notify the church office or send an email to mision@fumceg.org.

edited from advance.umcmmission.org/p-1443-adevu-mozart.aspx

- The latest copy of **On the Road**, the newsletter of the Living Waters Emmaus/Chrysalis Community has arrived in the church office. The major news is an announcement of the **Annual Meeting**, Worship & Election of Board Members, Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 10am via Zoom. If you need more information, contact the church office for meeting details.



- The February issue of The Church BELL will have a listing of the people in **leadership roles in our church**. If you or your committee are in the process of selecting your leadership, please be sure those names are sent to the church office and to The Editor so that they may be included in next month's listing.

- If you got a laugh out of the Christmas sign pictured, you can see more at www.Beliefnet.com. Look for the "search" symbol at the end of the top line. Enter "Best Christmas Church Signs". Get ready for some more laughs



- "Reflect today on how you can make a positive difference in the world" That's a random act of kindness for January 18. Check the website [HTTPS://randomactsofkindness.org/](https://randomactsofkindness.org/) and scroll down to the 2021 Kindness Calendar. When you get there, who you would pick to do the act on January 26?



Donate Blood In Memory of
STERLING PIERCE
Saturday, January 23, 2021
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please contact the American Red Cross at
1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org

Use sponsor code: egumc

